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Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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APPROVED BY CA/OCS/EMR:RBLANE
CA/OCS/EMR:EASWIFT
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ARA/CEN:PROMERO

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TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008466

E.O. 12356: DECL; OADR
TAGS: CASC - (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W - JOHN J. SULLIVAN

1. DEPT HAS DISCUSSED VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR OBTAINING A FINAL DECISION ON IDENTITY OF THE NUEVO CUSCATLAN REMAINS WITH MEMBERS OF THE SULLIVAN FAMILY, CONGRESSWOMAN ROUKEMA'S OFFICE AND DR. FREDERICK ZUGIBE. IN THESE DISCUSSIONS, THE SULLIVAN FAMILY HAS INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO MEET REQUIRED EXPENSES. HOWEVER, THE FAMILY IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED AND ALL AGREE THAT THE SOONER THIS MATTER CAN BE RESOLVED THE BETTER.

2. DR. ZUGIBE ADVISED THAT WHILE EXAMINATION OF ADDITIONAL X-RAYS OF THE REMAINS WOULD BE HELPFUL, IT WOULD NOT IN ALL PROBABILITY ALLOW A CONCLUSIVE OPINION TO BE REACHED. HIS ACTUAL EXAMINATION OF THE REMAINS SEEMS THEREFORE TO OFFER THE BEST MEANS OF RESOLVING THIS MATTER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. AS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS AND AS CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER OF ROCKLAND COUNTY, NEW YORK, DR. ZUGIBE MAINTAINS A FULL SCHEDULE OF TEACHING COMMITMENTS AND COURT APPEARANCES. HIS POSITION GIVES HIM ACCESS TO THE LATEST OF EQUIPMENT AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONSULT QUICKLY WITH FORENSIC SPECIALISTS IN RELATED FIELDS.

HE TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT THE EARLIEST HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL WOULD BE IN LATE JANUARY.

3. THE SULLIVAN FAMILY HAS FIRMLY INDICATED ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO REQUEST DR. ZUGIBE TO TRAVEL TO EL SALVADOR UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR HAS FORMALLY INDICATED THAT THE REMAINS CAN NOT BE SENT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION.

4. THEREFORE, REQUEST EMBASSY TO FORMALLY APPROACH SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO DISINTER AND TO SHIP NUEVO CUSCATLAN REMAINS. EMBASSY CAN TELL SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT THAT DR. ZUGIBE COMPARED THE X-RAYS OF THE NUEVO CUSCATLAN REMAINS WHICH WERE PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY WITH X-RAYS TAKEN OF JOHN SULLIVAN. IT IS DR. ZUGIBE'S OPINION THAT BOTH SETS OF X-RAYS EXHIBIT FEATURES WHICH ARE FROM THE SAME INDIVIDUAL. PLEASE EXPLAIN TO THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT THAT THESE FINDINGS COMBINED WITH THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF THE CASE GIVE A HIGH DEGREE OF PROBABILITY THAT THE NUEVO CUSCATLAN REMAINS ARE THOSE OF JOHN SULLIVAN. THE USG HAS A CLEAR OBLIGATION TO REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT IN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH FULLY THE IDENTITY OF THESE REMAINS. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FEELS STRONGLY THAT EXPEDITIOUS SHIPMENT OF BODY TO U.S. FOR EXAMINATION IS IN BEST INTEREST OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. BODY, OF COURSE, WILL BE RETURNED IF FORENSIC EXAMINATION PROVES INCONCLUSIVE.

5. IF EL SALVADOR IS WILLING TO PERMIT SHIPMENT OF THE BODY, DEPARTMENT WILL ARRANGE FOR THE ENTRY OF THE REMAINS INTO THE UNITED STATES FOR EXAMINATION.

6. WE HOPE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE WILLING TO EXPEDITE WHATEVER PROCEEDINGS ARE NECESSARY TO SHIP BODY TO U.S. IF THIS PROVES NOT TO BE THE CASE, WE WILL NEED TO KNOW THE BASIS FOR THE NEGATIVE DECISION SO WE MAY RESPOND TO FAMILY AND CONGRESSMEN. SHULTZ

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